

PARASITE HELPS FARMERS.—GRASSHOPPER PEST IS BEING KILLED OFF IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN.—Marquette, Mich., July 23.—Owing to the appearance of a strange parasite that is killing off the destructive insects, the plague of grasshoppers that has beset the farmers in this part of the country this summer is becoming a thing of the past. F. H. Vandenboom, whose dairy farm at the outskirts of the city is the largest in the upper peninsula, has caught a number of grasshoppers within the last few days, under the wings of which were found a half dozen or more small red eggs, resembling potato bug eggs. From these eggs worms hatch out, which enter the lungs of the grasshopper underneath the wings, and within a short time cause death. It is estimated that grasshoppers have destroyed on an average of 40 per cent. of this year's crop in the upper peninsula.—*Dispatch*, St. Paul, Minn.

The government is importing caterpillars supposed to harbor parasites that are fatal to the *broxentail moth*. Supposing the caterpillars multiply like the moth where will be the gain in the exchange of pests?—*Republican*, Faribault, Minn.

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## Doings of Societies.

At a regular meeting of the Feldman Collecting Social held June 16, 1909, at 1523 South Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia, fourteen members were present. President Harbeck in the chair.

Mr. Wenzel said he had noticed a scarcity of the larger Coleoptera in the last few years. Thought perhaps the presence of sparrows accounts for this as these birds are very common especially in "The Neck" where formerly he had found great quantities of large species; now they are entirely absent.

Professor Smith said that in the vicinity of Morris River, N. J., they have reclaimed much of the meadow land. The first year or two these places are covered with a great growth of reeds or rushes. These are plowed under and then strawberries are planted to get the soil in shape for other crops. This year the strawberries were destroyed by a species of *Amara* of the *exarata* section near *rufipes*. This beetle appeared in great numbers and attacked the seeds (making the berries

unfit for market) though it has not lost its predatory habits as a farmer had given him a jar containing hundreds of specimens and he only managed to get about a dozen good ones from it.

Mr. Wenzel remarked on this species, saying he had at one time seen the beach entirely covered with this insect.

Mr. Daecke said he had been to Browns Mills, N. J., over night and had taken at light a dozen specimens of *Lagoa crispata* Payk a species of which he had only taken three specimens in all his collecting experience. Had also found *Chlacnius prae-cinus* Dej. under a board next day. Reported *Microdon annulatus* Fab. and *Trichius bibicus* Fab. from Dauphin Co. VI-6-09, and *Myrmecomyia myrmecoides* and *Idana marginata* Say, from Harrisburg. Also exhibited a specimen of *Leptura proxima* Say., a freak with three antennae collected by Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. Wenzel said he had found this *Leptura* and *Buprestis rufipes* Oliv. in great numbers under bark where they had died before working their way to the surface.

Mr. Harbeck exhibited specimens of *Asilus flavofemoratus* Hine, *A. fuscatus* Hine, *A. auricomus* Hine, *A. lecythus* Walker and *A. sadytus* Walker, all taken within a few miles of Philadelphia and stated that Professor Hine had been working on a revision of this difficult group with satisfactory results which will be published within a short time.

Mr. George M. Greene reported that he had put a dried specimen of *Coptocycla* in the relaxing jar and when it had become moist it resumed its natural golden color. Also said that live specimens of the Japanese Mantis had been placed in the woods at Roxborough and had been seen there alive a few weeks later, proving they had found food upon which to live.

Mr. C. T. Greene exhibited a specimen of *Volucella vesiculosa* Fabr. from Castle Rock, Pa. VI.-6-09.

Meeting adjourned to the annex.

GEORGE M. GREENE, Secretary.